

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please **CANCEL** claims 4, 10, and 15 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please **AMEND** claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14 and 16 as shown below.

The following is a complete list of all claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for improving lung surfactant production in an individual with impaired surfactant production, the method comprising administering a leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment of leptin to the individual for a time and in an amount sufficient to enhance surfactant production.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the individual is a mammal.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the individual is an infant with an in utero development of less than nine months.

4. (Cancelled)

<sup>4</sup>  
5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof is a recombinant protein comprising at least a biologically active fragment of leptin.

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5. (Currently Amended)

The method of Claim 1, wherein the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof is administered in a dosage from about 10 ng/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight.

7. (Cancelled)

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6. (Currently Amended)

The method of claim 1 wherein the step of administering the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof includes administering to the individual milk fat globules containing leptin.

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7. (Currently Amended)

A method for improving lung surfactant production in an individual with respiratory distress syndrome, the method comprising administering leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof to the individual for a time and in an amount sufficient to enhance surfactant production.

10. (Cancelled)

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8. (Currently Amended)

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The method of Claim 9, wherein the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof is administered in a dosage from about 10 ng/kg body weight to about 100 mg/kg body weight.

12. (Cancelled)

<sup>9</sup>  
13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim <sup>7</sup>9 wherein the step of administering the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof includes administering to the individual milk fat globules containing leptin.

<sup>10</sup>  
14. (Currently Amended) A method for improving lung surfactant production in an individual with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia, the method comprising administering a leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof to the individual for a time and in an amount sufficient to enhance surfactant production.

15. (Cancelled)

<sup>11</sup>  
16. (Currently amended) The method of claim <sup>10</sup>14 wherein the step of administering the leptin ~~compound~~ or a biologically active fragment thereof includes administering to the individual milk fat globules containing leptin.